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TELLS OF HEARING

Sen. Ervin Says U-2 Pilot Is Vindicated

By SAM J. ERVIN JR.
U. S. Senator

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he had no American or English speaking attorney

WASHINGTON — Several days ago U-2 Pilot Francis Gary Powers testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee of which I am a member. I have received a number of letters concerning Mr. Powers since his return from imprisonment by Soviet Russia. Some of these letters have been highly derogatory to Powers.

I think the hearings on this matter have been very helpful to the country and to those who wish to properly appraise the obligations of this American. Powers made a very favorable impression on the committee.

The Central Intelligence Agency has made it very plain in sessions with the Committee that these pilots were instructed as follows:

"a. If evasion is not feasible and capture appears imminent, pilots should surrender without resistance and adopt a cooperative attitude toward their captors.

"b. At all times while in the custody of their captors, pilots will conduct themselves with dignity and maintain a respectful attitude toward their superiors.

"c. Pilots will be instructed that they are perfectly free to tell the truth about their mission with the exception of certain specifications of the aircraft. They will be advised to represent themselves as civilians, to admit previous Air Force affiliation, to admit current CIA employment, and to make no attempt to deny the nature of their mission."

Moreover, the testimony presented to the committee brought out that the U-2 pilots were to use their own judgment of what they should attempt to withhold and what they should reveal to their captors.

CONCLUSION OF COMMITTEE

"I think that all of us on the Senate Armed Services Committee were impressed with the fact that Powers fully performed his contract and agreement with the government, and that he did fairly well under highly adverse circumstances. All the facts concerning Mr. Powers' mission, the fall of his plane, his capture, and his stay in Russia have been intensively studied. All interrogators have been unanimous in the view that Power was truthful in his account.

POSTAL RATE INCREASE

I have received considerable mail concerning my views on the proposed increase in postage rates. In my judgment, Congress permits the Post Office Department to continue to operate deeply in the red. For many years the Post Office Department has been running huge deficits.

For this reason, I expect to vote for an increase in postage rates, provided I am convinced that the bill increasing the rates distributes the burdens fairly between the different classes of mail. The bill is presently in the Senate Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, and has not been reported to the floor of the Senate for action.

NC TRIP—Last Thursday Senator Jordan, Congressman Kornegay, and I accompanied Vice President Johnson on a brief visit to North Carolina. The Vice President spoke at ceremonies held at Elon College where he was presented with an honorary degree.

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